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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/000,088	12/04/2001	Shigeki Fukuta	826.1776	8024
21171	7590	03/29/2004	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			LU, KUEN S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2177	
DATE MAILED: 03/29/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/000,088	FUKUTA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kuen S Lu	2177

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2001.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/4-12-01.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-2, 6,10-11, 15, 19-20, 24, 28-29, 33 and 37 are rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Goyal et al. (U.S. Patent 5,873,108, hereafter "Goyal").

As per claims 1, 10, 19, 28 and 37, Goyal teaches the following:

"A personal information management apparatus which electronically manages personal information of a user" at the Abstract where a personal information manager is the apparatus for managing personal information of a user electronically, comprising: "a personal information database selection unit selecting a personal information database based on predetermined rules from a personal information storage unit including a plurality of personal information databases respectively storing personal information about different situations of a user" at Fig. 19, elements 1907-1909 and 1919, and col. 9, lines 61-64 where the three databases calendar/data-book, phone/address and lists are databases for storing pre-determined different categories of status data of a user; and "a processing unit processing the personal information database selected by said personal information database selection unit such that the personal information can be read and written" at Fig. 2, elements 201-203 and col. 3, lines 60-65 where the combination of

microprocessor and control logic is the processing unit for the personal information management system.

As per claims 2, 11, 20 and 29, Goyal teaches "comprising a clock unit outputting current time data, wherein said rules are defined based on the time data output by said clock unit" at Fig. 3, the top and middle sections, and col. 4, lines 32-46 by showing time/date information and user activities are set by the clock output.

As per claims 6, 15, 24 and 33, Goyal teaches "comprising a status information input unit inputting any user status information in user status information containing a situation of a user and a status of a user, wherein said rules are defined according to user status information input through said status information input unit" at Figs. 5-6 and col. 5, lines 19-39 by inputting a tag for status information and requiring proper information to be entered, for example, numerical value as an amount for the dollar tag.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 3-5, 12-14, 21-23 and 30-32 are rejected are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goyal et al. (U.S. Patent 5,873,108, hereafter "Goyal") as applied to claims 1, 10, 19 and 28, and in view of Giroti et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0018700, hereafter "Giroti").

As per claims 3, 12, 21 and 30, Goyal teaches "the apparatus comprising a transmission/reception unit, transmitting and receiving data to and from an information processing terminal through the network" at Fig. 2, element 211 and col. 3, line 67 – col. 4, line 4 by showing the PCMCIA connector as transmission/reception unit for transmitting and receiving data to and from network.

Goyal does not teach the transmission/reception unit to transmit or receive personal information database through the network.

However, Giroti teaches "wherein said personal information database selection unit selects the personal information database through the network, or directly selects the personal information database" at Fig. 2, element 10-18 and 24, and Page 2 [0022] lines 1-8 by showing an integrated application delivery system for allowing content and information from applications or databases delivered to the PDA.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Giroti's reference with Goyal's by implementing IASD connection with applications and databases because by doing so users of Goyal's system would have had greater flexibility in reaching out remote databases as a backup and source of data. The users also would have been able to

interactively manage remote applications and databases which would result in overall greater effectiveness and user satisfaction.

As per claims 4, 13, 22 and 31, Giroti further teaches "rules are defined based on information received by said transmission/reception unit about access path in the network from the information processing terminal" at Fig. 2, elements 10-24 and 28, Page 2, [0022] lines 1-8 where transmission/reception path includes wireless and internet connection, and at Page 1, [0007] by using finite machine state switch to control data transfer and user's interaction with the remote databases and applications.

As per claims 5, 14, 23 and 32, Giroti further teaches "rules are defined based on information received by said transmission/reception unit and designating the information processing terminal" at Page 1, [0007] by using finite machine state switch to control data transfer and user's interaction with the remote databases and applications.

3. Claims 7-9, 16-18, 25-27 and 34-36 are rejected are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goyal et al. (U.S. Patent 5,873,108, hereafter "Goyal") as applied to claims 1, 10, 19 and 28, and in view of Huang et al. (U.S. Patent 5,966,714, hereafter "Huang").

As per claims 7, 16, 25 and 34, Goyal teaches a personal information management apparatus, method, storage and program as described in Item 1.

Goyal does not specifically teach detecting the difference between databases and synchronizing the difference.

However, Huang teaches "a personal information non-matching detection unit detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two personal

information databases stored in said personal information storage unit" at Fig. 2d, element 230 and col. 8, lines 30-36 by implementing change detection mechanism for detecting the change and difference of mail databases; and
"a personal information non-matching notification unit notifying of the difference detected by said personal information non-matching detection unit" at col. 8, lines 44-48 and col. 12, lines 41-54 by sending database change information to the mail boxes.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Huang's reference with Goyal's by implementing automatic mechanisms for detecting and synchronizing database changes because by doing so all databases will be in synchronized state through an automatic but minimal expense of resources.

As per claims 8, 17, 26 and 35, Huang further teaches "information synchronization unit amending one piece of different personal information detected by said personal information non-matching detection unit to match the other piece" at Figs 5d-5f, element 340 and col. 14, lines 19-38 where mail database synchronizer is the information synchronization unit.

As per claims 9, 18, 27 and 36, Huang further teaches "information non-matching detection unit detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two personal information databases stored in said personal information storage unit" at Fig. 2d, element 230 and col. 8, lines 30-36 by implementing change detection mechanism for detecting the change and difference of mail databases.

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; and "information synchronization unit amending one piece of different personal information detected by said personal information non-matching detection unit to match the other piece" at Figs 5d-5f, element 340 and col. 14, lines 19-38 where mail database synchronizer is the information synchronization unit.

Conclusions

4. The prior art made of record
 - A. U.S. Patent 5,873,108
 - B. U.S. Publication 2003/0018700
 - C. U.S. Patent 5,966,714

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- D. U.S. Patent 5,920,858
- E. U.S. Patent 6,601,076
- F. U.S. Patent 6,577,720

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuen S Lu whose telephone number is 703-305-4894. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on 703-305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Kuen S. Lu

Patent Examiner

March 16, 2004

John E. Breene
JOHN BREENE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100